

NEWS RELEASE

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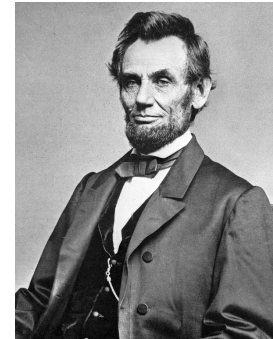
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USM Students Square Off for Lincoln-Douglas Debate

11:30, Monday, Feb. 14

(Leavenworth, Kan.)— In anticipation of the seventh annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln Lecture, four USM students are gearing up for a battle of wit and words—Lincoln-Douglas style. One week prior to the university's exclusive Lincoln Lecture, the University of Saint Mary presents the annual Lincoln-Douglas Debate at 11:30 on Monday, Feb. 14 in the Social Room of Saint Mary Hall. Debaters will argue the question "Should the United States federal government fund biotechnology research that includes genetically modified foods, stem-cell research and cloning?" before Leavenworth County 5th District Judge Robert Bednar. Judge Bednar has presided over the last four USM Lincoln-Douglas Debates. The debate is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided.



This year's debate, presented in the style of the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, focuses on the United States government's role in the moral and ethical dilemmas present with biotechnical research. Arguing that the U.S. should fund biotechnical research are senior Jennifer Ogle and sophomore Max Laitner. They are opposed by juniors Rachel Marshall and Andrew Chadwick. See them battle it out in the Social Room located on the second floor of Saint Mary Hall on the University of Saint Mary campus, 4100 South 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan.

The Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, pitted a young Abraham Lincoln against Stephen A. Douglas in a series of formal political debates in a campaign for one of Illinois' two state Senate seats. Although Lincoln lost that election, the debates launched him into national prominence, and led to his election as the 16th President of the United States in 1861.

The 2005 Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a prelude to the seventh annual University of Saint Mary Lincoln Lecture with renowned Kansas filmmaker Kevin Willmott at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21. Willmott will discuss what life would be like had the South won the Civil War. He will also show clips of his new film, "*CSA: Confederate States of America*," which is part parody and part faux documentary based on the same premise. This event, which is also free and open to the public, will be held in Saint Joseph Dining Hall. A dessert reception immediately follows the lecture in the Walnut Room of Mead Hall, where select items from the Saint Mary Lincoln Collection will be on display.

Ken Mulliken, a USM history and political science professor is excited to continue the university's strong Lincoln tradition. "This year's debate features two talented and energetic student teams who promise to rival each other in the spirit of intellectual competition reminiscent of the seven debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas," Mulliken said. "In the same spirit in which Lincoln tackled the issues of slavery and states right in 1858, this year's topic focuses on issues of biotechnology and raises ethical questions about human rights."

For more information about all USM Lincoln events, call 913-758-6165 or visit www.stmary.edu.

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